

Message Text

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72

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0187

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L L I M A 4029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PE

SUBJECT: ABUSE OF "AUTOMATIC MAJORITY" IN UNITED NATIONS

REF: STATE 104050

1. DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH FONOFF SECRETARY GENERAL GARCIA BEDOYA ON OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE (SEPTTEL), I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO APPRISE HIM OF HIGH-LEVEL USG CONCERN OVER INCREASING TENDENCY OF GROUP 77 AND NON-ALIGNED STATES TO USE THEIR OVERWHELMING NUMBERS TO CLOSE OR LIMIT DEBATE AND TO FORCE DECISIONS WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION OF DIFFERING MINORITY VIEWS. I EXPRESSED OPINION THAT CONTINUATION OF SUCH PRACTICES COULD LEAD TO DETERIORATION OF UN AS DELIBERATIVE BODY TO ULTIMATE DETRIMENT OF SMALL NATIONS WHO LOOK TO THE WORLD ORGANIZATION AS PROPER FORUM TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL ISSUE OF IMPORTANCE TO THEM. I ALSO RECOUNTED MY PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH MEXICAN FONMIN RABASA IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S INITIATIVE FOR CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES WHERE GOM HAS RECOGNIZED THAT IN ADDITION TO SUFFICIENT
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VOTES TO SECURE ITS APPROVAL IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN

THE SUPPORT OF US AND OTHER DC'S IF CHARTER IS TO HAVE MEANING AND IS TO BE EFFECTIVE.

2. GARCIA BEDOYA ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE OF THIS RECENT TREND, AND WHILE HE DID NOT SEEK TO JUSTIFY HE DID ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN IT. HE STATED THAT THE "AUTOMATIC MAJORITY" IS RESULT OF NEWLY-ACHIEVED COHESION AMONG LDC'S WHO TEND TO VIEW IT ALMOST IN TERMS OF A PHENOMENON OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL COALITION OF POOR COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT DEVELOPMENT OF "AUTOMATIC MAJORITY" CAN BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD WHEN VIEWED IN LIGHT OF ANTECEDENTS OF VETO POWER HELD BY BIG POWERS. HE SPOKE OF THE ABUSE OF THE VETO BY THE USSR AND SAID THAT THE PREVIOUS CONDITION OF "ARISTOCRATIC" RULE WAS BEING REPLACED BY ONE OF "DEMOCRATIC" DOMINATION.

3. NEVERTHELESS, GARCIA BEDOYA DOES SHARE OUR CONCERN OVER THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE UN SYSTEM IF THE SITUATION WHICH PREVAILED AT SIXTH SPECIAL UNGA SESSION CONTINUES. HE SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE OR EVEN DESIRABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT OR CONSENSUS AND THAT DIFFERING

MINORITY VIEWS SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD FULLY. IT IS A MATTER OF AVOIDING ABUSES, BOTH OF THE VETO POWER AND OF THE "AUTOMATIC MAJORITY," HE SAID. GARCIA BEDOYA INDICATED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH THE INTERESTED FONOFF DIRECTORS, IMPLYING HE MAY HAVE MORE TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT AT A FUTURE MEETING.

4. IN A SEPARATE MEETING, EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED THIS MATTER IN DEPTH WITH ONLY PERUVIAN DIPLOMAT ASSIGNED TO LIMA WHO SPENT FULL TIME AT UNGA SESSION, FERNANDO GUILLEN, CHIEF, COMMERCIAL POLICY. GUILLEN, BRILLIANT AND ACERBIC, HAS INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF UN SYSTEM AFTER SEVEN YEARS WITH GOP DELEGATION AT GENEVA, AND HE OFFERED POINT BY POINT REJOINDERS TO CRITICISM OF STEAMROLLER TACTICS PRESENTED IN PARA. 2 REFTTEL. FIRST, SESSION ALREADY EXTENDED SEVERAL DAYS BEYOND ORIGINAL LIMIT SO THAT IT SEEMED FOR HIM INCONGRUOUS TO ASSERT THAT G-77/MACG MAJORITY PREVENTED FURTHER DISCUSSION. SECOND, US DELEGATION DID NOT PUBLICLY, OR TO HIS KNOWLEDGE PRIVATELY, REQUEST SUBSTANTIALLY MORE TIME TO CONSIDER ADMITTEDLY CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPLEX SUBJECT. THIRD, US DELEGATION ACQUIESCED IN USE OF CONSENSUS MECHANISM AND NEVER PRESSED FOR VOTE. (HE VIEWED THIS ORIGINALLY AS POSITIVE MOVE ON PART USG AS ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENSUS ARRANGEMENTS, AND DESIRE AVOID CONFRONTATION THROUGH DIRECT VOTING.) FOURTH, US DELEGATION'S PROPOSAL FOR \$4 BILLION FUND WAS OFFERED ONLY 24 HOURS BEFORE END OF SESSION, LEAVING NO ONE WITH SUFFICIENT TIME TO CONSIDER IT. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT TO DETRACT FROM ESSENCE OF GARCIA BEDOYA'S CONCERN

THAT MINORITY VIEWS SHOULD BE HEARD THROUGH A VOTE IF REQUESTED,
A POINT WHICH GUILLEN AS WELL EMPHASIZED.
DEAN

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